

IN THE CLAIMS

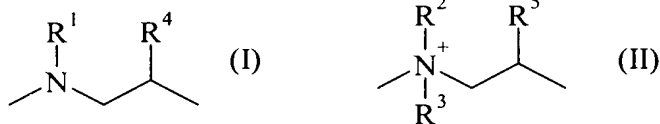
Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): An epichlorohydrinamine polymer ~~obtainable~~ obtained by a process ~~as claimed in claim 1~~ comprising:

- (a) reacting at least two different amines with at least one epichlorohydrin as an alkylating agent in water over a period which is sufficient for free alkylating agents to be no longer detectable, resulting in a reaction mixture (I);
- (b) adding at least one acid and to the reaction mixture (I) until the pH of the reaction mixture (I) is from 4 to 10, resulting in a reaction mixture (II), wherein
- the at least two different amines are selected from the group consisting of benzylamine; bis-2-aminoethyl ether; N,N-dimethylethylenediamine; piperazine; ethylenediamine; N,N-dimethylaminopropylamine; methylbis(3-aminopropyl)amine; methylbis(2-aminoethyl)amine; N-(2-aminoethylpiperazine); N-aminoethylpiperazine; diethylenetriamine; dipropylenetriamine; triethylenetetraamine; 4,7-dimethyltriethylenetetraamine; dimethylaminopropylamine; and tetraethylenepentaamine.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed in claim 5, wherein the polymer has at least two general structural units (I) and (II) that are arranged repeatedly in series:



wherein

R^1 and R^2 : $-(CH_2)_3N(CH_3)_2$, $-CH_2C_6H_5$, $-(CH_2)_2NH_2$, $-(CH_2)_2OH$, or
 $-(CH_2)_2NH(CH_2)_2NH_2$

R^3 : H or alkyl

R^4 and R^5 : H or OH.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed in claim 5, wherein the at least two different amines are dimethylaminopropylamine and benzylamine.

~~the amine and/or ammonium units are derived from dimethylaminopropylamine and benzylamine, the amine and/or ammonium units are composed of from 0.5 to 0.8 part of dimethylaminopropylamine and from 0.2 to 0.5 part of benzylamine.~~

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed claim 5, wherein the polymer has a weight average molecular weight of from $1 \cdot 10^2$ to $2 \cdot 10^5$ g/mol.

Claims 9 and 10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (previously presented): A method for the surface treatment of leather comprising treating the surface of a semi finished leather product with an epichlorohydrinamine polymer according to claim 5.

Claim 12 (new): The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed claim 5, wherein the method further comprises cooling of the reaction mixture (I).

Claim 13 (new): The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed claim 5, wherein the method further comprises reacting the reaction mixture (II) with a cationizing agent, and the at least two different amines are dimethylaminopropylamine and benzylamine.

Claim 14 (new): The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed claim 5, wherein said adding further comprises adding water to the reaction mixture (I).

Claim 15 (new): The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed claim 5, wherein said at least two different amines are selected from the group consisting of methylbis(3-aminopropyl)amine; methylbis(2-aminoethyl)amine; N-(2-aminoethylpiperazine); and 4,7-dimethyltriethylenetetraamine.

Claim 16 (new): The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed claim 5, wherein the at least one epichlorohydrin is selected from the group consisting of α -epichlorohydrin, a bisepoxide, a bischlorohydroxy compound, and phosgene.

Claim 17 (new): The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed claim 5, wherein the ratio of the at least two different amines to the at least one epichlorohydrin is from 0.8 : 1.2 to 1.2 : 0.8.

Claim 18 (new): The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed claim 5, wherein said reacting occurs at a temperature of from 40 to 100°C.

Claim 19 (new): The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed claim 5, wherein the ratio of the at least two different amines to the at least one epichlorohydrin is from 0.9 : 1.1 to 1.1 : 0.9.

Claim 20 (new): The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed claim 5, wherein the ratio of the at least two different amines to the at least one epichlorohydrin is from 0.92 : 1.08 to 1.08 : 0.92.

Claim 21 (new): The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed claim 5, wherein said reacting occurs at a temperature of from 50 to 90°C.

Claim 22 (new): The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed claim 5, wherein said reacting occurs at a temperature of from 80 to 85°C.

Claim 23 (new): The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed claim 5, having an amine number of from 0.5 to 1.7 mmol/g.

Claim 24 (new): The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed claim 5, wherein said at least one acid is formic acid or hydrochloric acid.

Claim 25 (new): The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed in claim 5, wherein the at least two amines are dimethylaminopropylamine and benzylamine and are present in relative amounts of from 0.5 to 0.8 parts and of from 0.2 to 0.5 parts, respectively.

Claim 26 (new): The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed in claim 5, wherein the at least two amines are dimethylaminopropylamine and benzylamine and are present in relative amounts of from 0.6 to 0.7 parts and of from 0.3 to 0.4 parts, respectively.